

ABSTRACT**Device and method for use in taking moulds of feet**

A device and method is provided whereby application is made to at least part of the sole of a suitably positioned foot. The device (1) (Figures 1 and 2) comprises a member or plate (20) having a planar surface (21) for pressure application to the sole by a handle (28) and in one arrangement is hingedly mounted (22, 24, 26) about horizontal axes from a leg rest (10) which lies in use on a seat or couch for the patient. This enables the surface (21) to be brought against the sole and also tilted for required contact with the latter. The plate (20) is also shown mounted for angular movement about a vertical axis X for additional tilting of the surface (21). An electronic unit (30) on the plate (20) has an LCD display (32) for showing angles of tilt. With the surface (21) in appropriate contact the sole can be manually palpated or manipulated e.g. for contact of the surface (21) with metatarsal joints or points, and/or the subtalar joint palpated for the neutral condition etc. The required position of the surface (21) is maintained while moulding material such as plaster of Paris (e.g. as a bandage) is applied to the sole and foot and allowed to set in providing a mould for use in the manufacture of orthoses. Alternatively, the plate may be simply hand held for similar operation. The planar surface may have buttons each for initial contact with a metatarsal point for indicator lamp operation when the metatarsal point lifts away. The handle may operate strain gauge means of the electronic unit to indicate application pressure at the LCD display.